



**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
and
BREATHE NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and Breathe New Hampshire (Breathe NH) share the common goals of increasing awareness of, protecting, and improving public health and the environment of New Hampshire. DES was established in January 1987 under the provisions of Chapter 202, Laws of 1986 and brought together programs from four previously separate state agencies that had responsibility for such matters as water and air pollution control, water supply protection, dams and flood control, and waste disposal. Today DES implements these and other programs through a variety of regulatory, compliance assistance and educational efforts.

Breathe NH is the Granite State's oldest nonprofit voluntary health agency and has a proud history of serving the people of New Hampshire since 1916. The organization is committed to eliminating lung disease and improving the quality of life for those living with lung disease in New Hampshire. Breathe NH currently focuses on modern threats to lung health, including: tobacco smoke, indoor and outdoor air quality, environmental issues and common lung diseases such as asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and lung cancer. Through education, public health advocacy, and partnerships, the organization involves New Hampshire citizens in matters that affect breathing and ensures that those living with lung disease have the support and resources that they need.

DES's and Breathe NH's common goals for the future include an emphasis on prevention efforts that will help New Hampshire citizens take steps to protect the air we breathe, as well as an expanded commitment to initiatives that promote greater understanding of the relationship between the indoor and outdoor environment and respiratory health. In the past, both organizations have worked cooperatively and in partnership on a wide range of matters, including public health advocacy, educational outreach, air scientific research and environmental protection to help prevent, eliminate and treat lung disease. To build on prior partnership and cooperative successes and to bring greater recognition, structure, effectiveness, and efficiency to future efforts, DES and Breathe NH hereby enter into this Partnership Agreement. It is anticipated that this Partnership Agreement will result in enhanced communication between DES and Breathe NH and improved protection of the environment and public health.

The specific areas of cooperation are detailed in the attached work plan, which is the result of discussions between representatives of DES and Breathe NH. The tasks are nonbinding and voluntary, and can be revised at any time by agreement of both parties.


Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner, DES


Daniel P. Fortin, President and CEO, Breathe NH

Date: 6/11/2010

Date: 6/16/2010

PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

I. Timeframe: This Work Plan shall be for two years and may be amended by mutual written agreement of the parties.

II. Program Areas and Tasks

A. DES will:

1. Provide representation on Breathe NH's Lung Health Advisory Committee.
2. Work with Breathe NH's Advocacy Committee on public policies related to indoor and outdoor air quality.
3. Provide air quality information for the benefit of Breathe NH constituents, including the general public, through direct communication and such vehicles as the information line and action alerts.
4. Provide a link to Breathe NH's website on the DES website.
5. Organize and conduct one or more "Clean Air Hikes" for middle school students, in conjunction with a tour of an air monitoring station.
6. Help promote Breathe NH's lung health education resources and programs for schools and child care facilities, such as the Asthma Care for Kids® program.
7. Assist Breathe NH in identifying gaps in public outreach materials concerning air quality, environmental issues, and respiratory health and provide feedback on same.
8. Work collectively to help address respiratory health issues in schools by participating in a statewide partnership for healthy schools.
9. Participate and assist with NH Youth Network activities, such as helping to train youth around environmental health issues.

B. Breathe NH will:

1. Provide a link to the DES website on the Breathe NH website.
2. Partner with DES to provide air quality information and resources to volunteers and constituents through Breathe NH's newsletter called *Breathing Matters*; special events and programs; and website and e-blasts.
3. Help DES to identify the needs of respiratory patients and health care professionals, and engage them in matters related to indoor and outdoor air quality.
4. Utilize and distribute air quality educational materials offered by DES.
5. Assist DES with preparation of website content for health care professionals.

6. Assist DES staff as needed in reaching specific target audiences, such as those affected by respiratory disease in New Hampshire.
7. Work with DES to help educate the general public about specific steps they can take to reduce air pollution in their homes, their businesses and their communities.

C. Both organizations will:

1. Work collectively to promote and implement statewide clean air initiatives, such as: Anti-idling campaigns and outreach efforts to reduce unnecessary exhaust from motor vehicles; Granite State Clean Cars – a program that promotes fuel efficient and low emission vehicles; Bike/Walk to Work Week – an initiative that encourages clean transportation and healthy activity; and NH Department of Transportation's Rideshare – a program that supports carpooling to decrease traffic congestion and air pollution.
2. Work together to raise public awareness about the link between the indoor environment and respiratory health, and support communities to take steps to create healthy indoor environments.
3. Work with statewide partners on matters related to air quality and lung health by participating in statewide committees and work groups, including but not necessarily limited to the following: Council on the Relationship between Public Health and the Environment; New Hampshire Public Health Association (Board of Directors and Committees); and State Asthma Control Program Steering Committee and Work Groups.
4. Meet at least once per calendar year to present information to respective staff /departmental teams about the resources available from each organization, and discuss annual priorities and goals.
5. Work collectively to identify and address gaps in air quality and lung health educational and outreach resources.

III. Resources to Implement Partnership Agreement

- A. DES will provide staff support to meet the goals of this partnership, subject to budgetary limitations.
- B. Breathe NH will provide staff, board, and volunteer resources to meet the goals of this partnership, as time and budget permit.